WORLD WAR II

Just Wait Until the Little Feller Grows up
Section Summary

THE RISE OF TOTALITARIANISM

The 1930s were hard times. Many people were willing to give up rights to leaders who promised them a better future. In Europe and Asia, some countries moved toward totalitarianism.

**Benito Mussolini** took control of Italy in 1922. Under fascism, Mussolini restored order and improved the economy. In Germany **Adolf Hitler** used anger over World War I to gain power. His **Nazis** took control in 1933.
Joseph Stalin became dictator of the Soviet Union in 1929. Stalin ruled by fear and scare tactics. He killed or jailed millions. In Japan military leaders slowly took over the government. Then in 1931 Japan invaded northern China.

GERMANY EXPANDS
Hitler rebuilt the military in Germany. His goal was to start a new empire. In 1936 he joined Italy and Japan to form the Axis Powers. Hitler took over part of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Although Britain and France were allied with Czechoslovakia, they chose appeasement. But British admiral Winston Churchill warned that the policy would fail.

In 1939 Germany and the Soviet Union made a secret pact to split Poland between them. Germany attacked Poland and won, starting World War II. The Allied Powers declared war on Germany.

In 1940 Germany conquered much of Europe, including France. Great Britain stood alone. With the new technology of radar, the British Royal Airforce was able to stop an invasion of Britain.

THE UNITED STATES JOINS THE WAR
Most Americans wanted to stay out of the war in Europe. In 1941 the Lend-Lease Act was passed to allow the president to aid any nation vital to U.S. defense. The United States began sending supplies to Britain and other allied countries.

The United States also decided to act against Japanese imperialism. This angered Japan. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the naval fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The United States declared war on Japan. Then Germany declared war on the United States. The United States joined the Allies, entering another world war.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Making Judgments Explain why you believe that the United States should or should not have helped the Allies through the Lend-Lease Act.
DIRECTIONS  Answer each question by writing a sentence that contains at least one word from the word bank.

1. Who maintained control of the Soviet Union by killing and imprisoning his political enemies?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________ 

2. What alliance fought Great Britain and the United States in World War II?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________ 

3. Who blamed Jewish people, intellectuals, and Communists for Germany's problems after World War I?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________ 

4. What law provided aid to the Allies before the United States had entered the war?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________ 

5. Under what political system is the government seen as more important than individuals?

_________________________________________________________________
Section Summary

PREPARING FOR WAR
The Great Depression finally ended as the United States mobilized for war. The **War Production Board** was created. The Selective Training and Service Act started the first peacetime draft in the history of the United States. More than 16 million Americans served in World War II.

To fund the war, the government raised taxes and sold war bonds. Americans also gathered scrap metal for war production factories. Government rations curbed the nonmilitary use of gasoline, rubber, shoes, and some kinds of food.

WARTIME OPPORTUNITIES
Women took on a new role in World War II. Because so many men left to fight in the war, women were urged to fill factory jobs. Women also served in the armed forces, some as pilots and as nurses. Over 300,000 women served in the armed forces during World War II.
The Great Migration continued as African Americans moved north to find jobs. A march was planned by A. Philip Randolph to protest lower wages for African Americans. It was called off when Roosevelt ended the practice of racial discrimination in factories that produced war goods.

About 1 million African Americans served in the armed forces during the war. Most of them were sent to support jobs in segregated units. The Tuskegee Airmen, under the leadership of Benjamin O. Davis, flew thousands of successful missions in North Africa and Italy.

About 300,000 Mexican Americans served in the military during the war. Many also found wartime jobs in the West and Midwest. Mexico supplied farm workers to ease a lack in the United States. Groups of sailors attacked Mexican Americans in 1943. This started the zoot-suit riots.

JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, fear of Japanese Americans on the West Coast increased. No evidence to back up the fear was offered, but the government began the process of internment of Japanese Americans. About 120,000 people, many of them native-born Americans, were forced to move and were held in internment camps. Many lost their jobs, homes, and belongings.

After Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans could not join the military. This policy was ended in 1943. About 33,000 Japanese Americans served in segregated units in World War II.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Analyzing  What assumptions did the U.S. government make about Japanese Americans when it moved them to internment camps?
DIRECTIONS In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches each term or person.

_____ 1. War Production Board  
   a. group of African American pilots trained in Alabama

_____ 2. A. Philip Randolph  
   b. racially-motivated attacks against Mexican Americans

_____ 3. Tuskegee Airmen  
   c. the government agency that oversaw the conversion of factories to war production

_____ 4. Benjamin O. Davis  
   d. became the first African American general in the U.S. Air Force

_____ 5. zoot-suit riots  
   e. organized the fight for equal pay for African Americans

_____ 6. internment  
   f. forced relocation or imprisonment

DIRECTIONS Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe the term.

7. War Production Board _________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

8. A. Philip Randolph _________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

9. Tuskegee Airmen __________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

10. Benjamin O. Davis _________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________

11. zoot-suit riots _____________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________

12. internment _______________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________
World War II

Section 3

MAIN IDEAS
1. The Allies fought back against the Axis Powers in North Africa and Europe.
2. Key Allied victories halted the German advance.
3. In the D-Day invasion, Allied Forces attacked German-controlled France.

Key Terms and People

**Battle of El Alamein**  battle in which Montgomery’s British troops stopped Rommel’s *Afrika Korps* in North Africa in November 1942

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**  American general who commanded Allied forces in Europe; later elected U.S. president

**Battle of Stalingrad**  key battle in which Soviets stopped German advance in winter of 1942–1943

**D-Day**  date of Allied sea invasion of occupied France—June 6, 1944

Section Summary

THE ALLIES FIGHT BACK

When the United States entered the war, President Roosevelt met with British prime minister Winston Churchill. They decided to attack German forces in North Africa before an invasion of Europe. This angered the Soviet Union, which had been hoping for help on the Eastern front.

New technology that had not been used in prior wars helped in the effort. Long-range planes dropped bombs on German factories, railroads, and cities, and sonar detected German U-boats.

HALTING THE GERMAN ADVANCE

By 1942 the Germans and the British were fighting in North Africa. They were fighting for control of the Suez Canal. The British forces stopped the German attack at the **Battle of El Alamein**.

American general **Dwight D. Eisenhower** led U.S. and British troops through Morocco and Algeria. Trapped, the Germans surrendered in May 1943.

Why did the Germans and the British fight in North Africa?

_____________________

_____________________
After taking control of North Africa, the Allies moved into Europe. They attacked Italy in 1943. Italian leaders removed Mussolini from power and surrendered to the Allies. Germany sent troops to Italy to stop the Allies. German forces were not pushed out of Italy until 1945.

At the same time, German and Soviet troops were fighting on the Eastern front in the Soviet Union. Hitler ordered the German troops not to retreat, but Germany did not send enough supplies or fresh troops. Eventually, the German forces surrendered due to supply shortages and the harsh northern winter. The Soviets blocked the German advance at the Battle of Stalingrad, a key turning point in the war. More than 1 million Soviet soldiers died and about 800,000 Axis soldiers were killed.

THE D-DAY INVASION
After succeeding in North Africa and Italy, the Allies made plans to move into France. At the time the Germans controlled France. General Eisenhower was in charge of planning the largest sea-to-land invasion ever attempted. The invasion took place on D-Day, named for the “designated day” of the attack—June 6, 1944.

More than 156,000 Allied troops landed on five beaches in Normandy, France. The Germans had placed mines and soldiers along the coast to repel the invasion. Although they suffered heavy losses, the Allies took control of all five beaches by the end of D-Day. Then they could begin moving west through France toward Germany.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Writing to Explore Imagine that you are an American soldier on D-Day. Write a short letter home to a friend or family member telling them what you are thinking.
**DIRECTIONS** Use the four vocabulary words from the word bank to write a summary of what you learned in the section.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

**DIRECTIONS** Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The German Army was stopped in North Africa at the ___________________.
   (Battle of El Alamein/Battle of Stalingrad)

2. During ____________________, the Allies attacked German forces with one of the largest invasion forces ever assembled. (the Battle of Stalingrad/D-Day)

3. The German loss at the _____________________ was a turning point on the Eastern front. (Battle of El Alamein/Battle of Stalingrad)
World War II

Section 4

MAIN IDEAS
1. The Japanese continued advancing across the Pacific in 1942.
2. The Allies stopped Japan’s advance with key victories over the Japanese navy.
3. The Allies began battling toward Japan.

Key Terms and People

Douglas MacArthur  general who commanded U.S. ground troops in the Pacific

Bataan Death March  forced march of American and Filipino prisoners on the Bataan Peninsula, during which many died

Chester Nimitz  American admiral who commanded U.S. Pacific fleet

Battle of the Coral Sea  naval battle in which American fleet prevented Japanese invasion of Australia

Battle of Midway  key Pacific battle in which Japanese navy was severely weakened

island hopping  strategy of attacking only key Pacific islands

Battle of Leyte Gulf  largest naval battle in history; American navy defeated the Japanese navy to retake the Philippines

kamikaze  tactic of purposely crashing piloted planes into enemy ships

Academic Vocabulary

execute  perform, carry out

Section Summary

JAPAN ADVANCES
The attack on Pearl Harbor left the U.S. Pacific fleet weak. As a result the fleet was not able to react to the assault. Japan was able to conquer much of Asia and the Pacific. American forces under the command of U.S. general Douglas MacArthur were forced to leave the Philippines. MacArthur’s forces could not stop the Japanese advance. More than 600 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died in the Bataan Death March.

Why were the Japanese able to conquer much of the Pacific after the attack on Pearl Harbor?

_______________________

_______________________

_______________________
KEY ALLIED VICTORIES
The Allies feared a Japanese attack on India, Australia, or the U.S. mainland. American code breakers learned to read the Japanese secret code, and Admiral Chester Nimitz found out that Japan planned to attack Australia. His aircraft carriers and fighter planes fought the Japanese in the **Battle of the Coral Sea**, and stopped the invasion.

The Allies learned that Japan was planning a surprise attack on the Midway Islands. Nimitz was ready for the attack. The Allies destroyed four Japanese carriers at the **Battle of Midway**, badly weakening the Japanese Navy. This allowed U.S. Marines to invade Guadalcanal. Allied forces took full control of the island six months later.

BATTLING TOWARD JAPAN
The battles at Midway and Guadalcanal were key victories. This **island hopping** strategy was successful but hard to execute. The Allied forces slowly moved across the Pacific.

In October of 1944 General MacArthur led his forces to retake the Philippines. The Allies won the **Battle of the Leyte Gulf**. After the battle MacArthur’s troops fought for many more months to drive out the remaining Japanese forces.

Allied planes began bombing Japan in November 1944. At this time they fought two of the fiercest battles of the war on the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Near Okinawa, Japanese pilots used **kamikaze** tactics against American ships. More than 2,500 kamikaze missions were flown. After the victories at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the Allies began to plan an assault on the main Japanese islands.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences**  Why was island hopping a difficult strategy to execute?
DIRECTIONS  Look at each set of terms below. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

1. a. island-hopping  
b. Battle of Coral Sea  
c. Battle of Leyte Gulf  
d. heavy casualties on land

2. a. Chester Nimitz  
b. U.S. Pacific Fleet  
c. Douglas MacArthur  
d. kamikaze

3. a. Battle of Midway  
b. Douglas MacArthur  
c. Bataan Death March  
d. the Philippines

4. a. Battle of Midway  
b. Bataan Death March  
c. Battle of Leyte Gulf  
d. aircraft carriers

DIRECTIONS  Match the terms in the first column with their correct definitions from the second column by placing the letter of the correct definition in the space provided before each term.

5. Douglas MacArthur  
a. a battle between American and Japanese aircraft carriers that saved Port Moresby

6. Bataan Death March  
b. a naval strategy allowing Allied forces to cross the Pacific

7. Battle of Coral Sea  
c. the cause of thousands of deaths when the Japanese forced American and Filipino troops to walk to prison camps

8. Battle of Midway  
d. the Japanese tactic of crashing planes into enemy ships

9. island-hopping  
e. lost but eventually retook the Philippines

10. kamikaze  
f. victory that led Nimitz to proclaim, “Pearl Harbor has now been partially avenged.”
**Main Ideas**

1. The Allies gained victory in Europe with Germany’s surrender.
2. Nazis murdered millions of Jews and other people in the Holocaust.
3. Victory in the Pacific came after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan.

**Key Terms and People**

**Battle of the Bulge** key battle at the Ardennes forest; Allies were victorious after an initially successful German attack

**Harry S. Truman** vice president who became president when Roosevelt died in 1945

**Holocaust** Nazi program of mass murder against the Jewish people

**Genocide** extermination of an entire group of people

**Manhattan Project** secret American research program to develop the atomic bomb

**Atomic bomb** weapon that produces tremendous power by splitting atoms

**Section Summary**

**Germany Surrenders**

After the D-Day invasion, hundreds of thousands of Allied troops landed in France. By August 1944 Allied troops had taken control of Paris from the Germans. At the same time, Soviet troops were headed for Germany from the east.

In December Hitler ordered a massive attack against the Allies, whose planes were grounded due to bad weather. Germany pushed forward about 65 miles, creating a bulge in the frontlines. The Allies recovered quickly and their planes were able to fly. The Allied victory at the **Battle of the Bulge** put Germans on the defensive for the rest of the war.

The Allies began bombing raids on German cities. These raids killed thousands of civilians. As Allied troops surrounded Berlin, Hitler committed suicide. The Germans surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Roosevelt died before the end of the war. **Harry S. Truman** became president and faced the challenge of winning the war in the Pacific.

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**How did the Allied airplanes’ initial inability to fly affect the Battle of the Bulge?**

____________________

____________________

____________________

**Underline the name of the U.S. president who accepted the German surrender.**

**Harry S. Truman**
HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST
As the Allied forces liberated Europe, they discovered that stories of the Holocaust were true. Soon after taking power, Hitler had begun a campaign against the Jews. The Nazis destroyed or seized property and moved the Jews to ghettos and concentration camps.

Hitler’s “final solution” was genocide. He planned to get rid of all of the Jewish people, killing millions in death camps. About 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. The Nazis also murdered millions of other people.

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC
The Allied planners projected that an invasion of Japan could cause more than 1 million Allied deaths. They had another option, based on research results of the Manhattan Project. When Japanese leaders refused to surrender, President Truman gave the order to use the atomic bomb.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped above the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Almost 80,000 people were killed instantly and many more died later. Japanese leaders still would not surrender, and a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. The Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945.

After six years World War II was over. About 50 million people had been killed. More than half of them were civilians. Economies were badly damaged, and millions of people were left without food, water, or shelter. Because the United States was the strongest remaining power in the world, it took on much of the job of rebuilding.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Making Judgments  Was using atomic bombs against Japanese cities the right decision? Write a paragraph supporting your position.
DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. Hitler’s plan to eliminate the Jewish population was ______________________.
   (the atomic bomb/genocide)

2. The ______________________ was a temporary victory for the German army but ended in defeat. (Battle of the Bulge/Holocaust)

3. The secret American program to produce a super-weapon was known as the ______________________. (Holocaust/Manhattan Project)

4. The murder of millions of Jews in Europe by the Nazis is known as the ______________________. (Manhattan Project/Holocaust)

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write T if a statement is true and F if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

   5. Two-thirds of Europe’s prewar Jewish population were victims of Hitler’s planned genocide.

   6. An atomic bomb produces its enormous blast by splitting atoms.

   7. The Manhattan Project ended Germany’s ability to fight offensive battles.

   8. Germany’s “final solution” resulted in the Holocaust.